(b) whether it is also a fact that India imported pulses to the tune of 1701.16 thousand tonnes worth Rs. 2251.20 crores in 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As a result of green revolution since the mid sixties, there has been considerable improvement in the production of different foodgrains, namely rice, wheat, coarse grains and pulses. The impact, however, on all crops has not been uniform. In rice and wheat, India has not only been self-sufficient, but also a net exporter. Pulses, however, are being imported to meet the shortfall between domestic production and demand inspite of increase in production from 9.94 million tonnes in 1965-66 to 14.94 million tonnes in 2003-04.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Cutting down the production cost by SAIL

†*51. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India has decided to implement a scheme by spending Rs. 400 crores in order to cut down the production cost;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme;

(c) the percentage of reduction in the existing steel production cost expected after the completion of this scheme; and

(d) the profit of the organisation in terms of amount expected as a result of reduction in the production cost?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) No Sir, there is no specific scheme for investment of Rs. 400 crores to cut down the production cost.

(d) Total cost of production of saleable steel has remained nearly constant during 2001-02 to 2003-04. In 2004-05, total cost of production has increased by 15.5% over the previous year mainly on account of increase in price of raw materials.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.